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## Percieved Influence of Provision of Facilities as Management Strategy on the Control of Indisciplinary Behaviors among University Students in North Central Nigeria

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### **Abstract:**

*This paper investigated the Influence of Provision of facilities as management strategy on the Control of Indisciplinary Behaviors among University Students in North Central Nigeria. The study adopted survey research design. The sample size was 368 out of a target population of 4630 administrators including lecturers and student union executives from 13 public Universities in North Central Zone of Nigeria. A 30-item questionnaire titled Management Strategies on the Control of Indisciplinary Behaviors among University Students Questionnaire (MSCIBAUSQ) was used as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was validated by experts from Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi and Federal University Lafia, respectively. The reliability coefficient that was obtained for the study was 0.90. Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation were used to answer the two research questions. Chi-square was used to test the two hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that the provision of facilities such as water, electricity, good class rooms, library and laboratory facilities and recreational facilities would significantly influence the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria. Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommended that University Administrators should always ensure that basic facilities needed for teaching and learning are available so as to encourage students' concentration and reduce indisciplinary behaviors in the universities.*

**Keywords:** Influence of facilities provision on behaviour of university students in north central Nigeria

### **1. Introduction**

Education has been described as the bedrock of every society and a tool for nation building. Every society attached importance to education because it is regarded as the major tool for solving most societal and national problems. University education in particular is the education given after secondary education for the pursuit of undergraduate and post graduate studies. According to the National Policy on Education (NPE, 2004), university education is the pinnacle of education where human capital skills are acquired and developed for a meaningful transformation of the society into a desirable state. There is need to maintain discipline and orderliness at this level so as to inculcate the right type of values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigeria society.

Lack of discipline and safety in schools is one of the major challenges facing tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Instead of the tertiary institutions graduating students who are worthy of character and learning, what is seen today are graduates and undergraduates who are highly indisciplined (Okah, 2010). Okah lamented that products of such educational system would not discover anything more than early sex, indecent dressing, cultism, examination malpractices among others. This statement goes to reveal the fact that indiscipline in our higher institutions has reached an alarming rate and calls for urgent attention to control the menace. This study is part of the clarion call to address the menace of indiscipline among university students.

School facilities play a pivotal role to effective teaching/learning and academics achievement of students. In support of this, Hallak in Akomolafe and Adesua (2016) identifies facility as the main factor contributing to academic achievement in the school systems. According to Ochai (2012), school facilities are resources that help the teacher to carry out his work effectively and the learners to learn well. Similarly, Maphoso and Mahlo (2014) posit that school facilities facilitate the smooth running of the school and they include Infrastructure, buildings, water, electricity, laboratories, workshops, hostels, among others.

Successful implementation of any educational program depends on the availability and adequacy of school facilities. Where the facilities are provided in the right quantity and quality, it reduces students' indisciplinary behaviours

but where they are not provided in the right quality and quantity, there is bound to be chaos (Agenyi, 2015). For example, the absence of water and electricity in some universities has resulted into violent demonstrations and closure of schools for some time. Similarly, the absence of good examination halls has often resulted into examination malpractices of various kinds.

The influence of provision of school facilities as a management strategy to curb student's indisciplinary behaviours in North central Nigeria as a topic for study will help University Administrators to equip schools with the right quality and quantity of school facilities that would guarantee good teaching/ learning experience and reduce incidence of indisciplinary behaviours among university students in North Central Nigeria.

## 2. Concept of Indisciplinary Behaviour

Basically, indisciplinary behaviors occur when a student refuses to obey rules of the school. In support, Ekpe (2012) opines that indisciplinary behavior or indiscipline is any act that does not conform to societal value or norms. In addition, Azizi (2009) describes indiscipline as an unacceptable and unruly behavior, disobedience and general disorder. This shows that indiscipline could lead to chaos and violence, violation of school rules and regulations; that can also lead to teachers being beaten up by students. Oboegbulem (2010) asserts that indisciplinary acts are types of behavior exhibited by students which are not in consonance with the rules and regulations of the institution. They disrupt academic programs and distract teaching and learning in our tertiary institutions. Similarly, Kajo (2015) observes that in recent times, indisciplinary behaviors among students in tertiary institutions of higher learning have become worrisome and have made it extremely difficult for the realization of the desired educational objectives. These problems manifest in students going from classes and leaving school without permission. Others include loitering, fighting, sneaking out of dormitory at night, taking dangerous drugs, immoral relationship with opposite sex, examination malpractices, falsifying of results, awarding of fake results and certificates. These anti-social behaviors need to be checked if our tertiary institutions are to realize their objectives.

The need for discipline in Nigeria universities has become very urgent in view of decaying moral standards in the society with its attendant consequences. Students' indiscipline has been overtime an issue of concern for educators, policy makers and public opinion in general. Students' misbehavior is a prevailing problem affecting universities in north central zone of Nigeria. It affects teaching and learning and is thought to be a precursor to later school dropout and similar negative social outcomes (Akanwa, 2012). The academic calendar is constantly disrupted leading to elongation of academic sessions. The rampant cases of cult activities, drug abuse, examination malpractices and violent demonstrations hinder effective teaching and learning. Such circumstance is counterproductive and encourages poor academic achievement.

Students' indisciplinary behaviors manifest in different forms and types but this researcher is investigating the perceived influence of provision of facilities on the control of six common anti-social behaviors which include cultism, drug abuse, examination malpractices, sexual promiscuity, violent demonstration and cyber-crimes. These indisciplinary behaviors are of interest to the researcher because of the damage they have done and are still doing in our educational system. According to Ali, Dada and Isiaka (2014), they have caused untimely death to many students and teachers, destroyed school properties, eroded credibility in the educational system, caused frequent strike actions and closure of schools and disrupted academic programme. These have resulted into production of half-baked graduates and deteriorating standard of education.

## 3. Concept of Adequacy of Facilities

Adequacy of facilities in schools could contribute significantly to quality of education. According to Idoko (2015) an institution that is lacking in essential equipment cannot reasonably expect to achieve its educational objectives, the increase in students' enrolment without corresponding available facilities significantly affects academic performance. School facilities constitute the major components of both direct and indirect elements in the environment of learning. It is the view of Ochai (2014) that the quality of education that students receive bears direct relevance on the availability or lack of physical facilities and overall atmosphere in which learning takes place. This observation is in agreement with the Revised National Policy on Education (FRN, 2012) which states that the success in the implementation of educational policy in this modern age of science and technology is largely dependent on the availability of school facilities. School facilities as viewed by Agbe (2015) are defined as the material resources provided for staff and students to optimize their productivity in the teaching and learning process. Successful implementation of any educational program depends on the quality of available school facilities that are provided for such program. Facilities consist of instructional facilities such as classrooms, laboratories, libraries, chalkboards; recreational facilities such as spaces, lawns, road path; and residential facilities like hostels, staff quarters and general facilities such as school farms, fields, and parking lots and so on. Lack of facilities in schools has been observed by Idoko (2015) as being a major cause of students' disciplinary problems especially due to overcrowding, but adequate supply of facilities could promote discipline and sound education. Lack of some basic facilities such as water, electricity, hostel accommodation, classrooms among others could influence students' disciplinary problems in the Universities. According to Uchenna and Funke (2015) insufficient classrooms was one of the causes of examination malpractice in Ebonyi State University. It was observed that inadequate classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and recreational facilities could influence students' indisciplinary acts in the Universities.

#### 4. Statement of the Problem

There has been public outcry and expression of worry over the high rate of disciplinary problems in tertiary institutions in the North central states. This may be attributable to lack of facilities on the campuses. This in turn has brought about welfare problems violent such as demonstrations, drug abuse and examination malpractices etc. These vices are detrimental to the achievement of stated educational goals. The federal government and previous authorities/school administrators have tried to solve these problems by establishing ETF, TETFUND and IGR to ensure the provision of facilities in universities in North central states but these attempts yielded little result. This study is carried to examine the influence of provision of facilities on student indisciplinary problems. Put in question, in what ways can provision of facilities reduce indisciplinary problems among university students in North Central Nigeria?

Tertiary institutions in Nigeria today are confronted with massive increase in the enrolment of students without corresponding increase in facilities for teaching and learning. According to Akanwa (2012) this tends to promote welfare problems and could give rise to students' disciplinary problems. Lack of basic facilities such as water, electricity, hostel accommodations, congested classrooms among others are common features in most of the Universities in North Central Nigeria. According to Idoko (2015), dearth of facilities in the Universities is considered a major cause of student's indisciplinary behaviours such as violent demonstrations, drug abuse and examination malpractices.

Different forms of students' indisciplinary behaviors continue to ravage our tertiary institutions of learning in North Central Nigeria in particular and Nigeria in general. According to Nwite (2010) students' misbehaviors have created major challenges to the management of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. These problems manifest in form of cheating in examinations, destruction of lives and properties by cult activities, drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, violence, falsifying of results, hacking of mails and theft by cyber criminals and so on. Students and staff live in fear on the campuses and academic activities cannot thrive in an atmosphere of insecurity and violence. Severally, the academic calendar of many universities is constantly disrupted leading to elongation of academic sessions and many students end up spending up to six to seven (7) years in the university instead of the approved four (4) years for some undergraduate courses. (Ekpe, 2012).

#### 5. Research Questions

The following research questions were stated to guide the study:

- What is the mean influence of provision of basic facilities such as water and electricity on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central of Nigeria?
- What is the mean influence of provision of facilities such as standard examination halls and hostels on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria?
- What is the mean influence of provision of facilities such as laboratories, library and recreational facilities on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria?

#### 6. Statement of Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses guided the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

- Provision of basic facilities such as water and electricity have no significant mean influence on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria.

#### 7. Methodology

This study adopted survey research design and covered the North Central Nigeria which is made up of six states and the Federal Capital, Abuja. The states include Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, Plateau, Niger and Kwara. The population for this study comprises 4630 administrators (including Lecturers and student union executives) who are involved at the various levels of disciplinary control of students from 13 universities in North Central Nigeria. The sample for the study was 368 drawn out of the population. The multi-stage sampling Technique was used for the study. At the first stage, simple random sampling was used in selecting 7 public universities in the North Central zone. Subsequently, purposive sampling was used in selecting administrators including lecturers and students' union Executives. The instrument for data collection was a self-developed structured 30-item questionnaire titled Management Strategies on Control of Students' Indisciplinary Behaviors Questionnaire (MSCIBQ). The instrument was validated by 5 experts, 1 from Federal University of Agriculture Markudi, 3 from Federal University, Lafia and 1 from Benue State University Makurdi respectively.

To establish the internal consistency of the instruments, they were trial tested in two universities that were not part of the sample. The data gathered from the trial testing of the instruments were used to calculate the reliability coefficient using the Cronbach alpha coefficient method. Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation were used to answer the two research questions. There was a cut-off point of 2.50 for decision making. Any mean score of 2.50 and above was considered as having the desired influence while mean scores of less than 2.50 were adjudged as not having the influence. The Boundary for decision making was 1.00 – 1.49 = SD, 1.50 – 2.49 = D, 2.50 – 3.49 = A, 3.50 – 4.00 = SA. Chi-square [ $\chi^2$ ] was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The decision was that, if the calculated [ $\chi^2$ ] value was greater than the critical table value, the null hypotheses were rejected and the alternatives accepted as the options.

#### 8. Results and Discussions

Table one: What is the mean influence of provision of facilities such as water, electricity, standard halls, hostels, laboratories, library and recreational facilities on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria?

S/N	Items.	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	Improvement of basic needs like water and electricity can avert students' indisciplinary behavior such as violent demonstration.	136	121	67	44	2.95	1.02	Accepted
2	Provision of standard examination halls in university could control examination malpractice.	129	126	62	51	2.90	1.03	Accepted
3	Provision of good hostel accommodation would control students' misbehaviors such as drug abuse.	188	87	55	38	3.15	1.03	Accepted
4	Provision of good teaching facilities such as Laboratories would promote discipline in the universities.	191	77	61	39	3.14	1.05	Accepted
5	Provision of libraries, lecture halls and recreational facilities will reduce cases of indiscipline such as examination malpractice.	202	90	40	36	3.24	1.00	Accepted
	Cluster Mean					3.08	1.03	Accepted

*Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviations of Responses on the Mean Influence of Provision of Facilities as Management Strategy on the Control of Students' Indisciplinary Behaviors*

The findings in Table one revealed that items 1-5 have mean value of 2.95, 2.90, 3.15, 3.14 and 3.24 respectively. The mean values are clearly above the cut-off point of 2.50. Furthermore, the grand cluster mean of 3.08 was above the cut-off mark of 2.50 and is adjudged as having an influence. Similarly, the values of the standard deviation which ranges between 1.00 and 1.05 indicated that the respondents do not differ significantly in their responses on the items.

Table 2; Hypothesis. Provision of facilities such as water, electricity, standard halls, hostels, laboratories, library and recreational facilities have no significant influence on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria?

	Df	$\chi^2_{tab}$	$\chi^2_{cal}$	$\alpha$	Assymp. Sig (2 sided)	Remark
Chi Square	12	21.02	57.53	0.05	0.00	Significant
No of Valid Cases			1840			

*Table 2: Chi Square Test of Influence of Provision of Facilities as Management Strategy on the Control of Students' Indisciplinary Behaviors*

From Table 2, the summary of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test on influence of provision of facilities as management strategy on the control of students' indisciplinary behaviors was presented. The result showed that  $\chi^2$  calculated value of 57.536 is greater than the table/critical value of 21.026 at 0.05 level of significance and at 12 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that Provision of facilities as a management strategy has no significant influence on the control of

indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Zone of Nigeria was rejected. The implication is that provision of facilities as a management strategy has significant influence on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria.

The findings on provision of facilities as a management strategy revealed that it has significant influence on the control of indisciplinary behaviors among university students in North Central Nigeria. The findings from this study agrees with those of Adeyemi (2009) whose study revealed that failure on the part of university authorities to meet students' demand for facilities such as water, electricity and accommodation fuelled student crises in some public universities. Similarly, the findings of this study corroborate with that of Uchenna and Funke (2015) who observed that adequate classrooms, libraries, laboratories and recreational facilities could influence students' indisciplinary behaviors in the universities.

## 9. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, indisciplinary behaviours among university students in North Central Nigeria could be reduced if stakeholders provide facilities in right quality and quantity for the students.

## 10. Recommendations

In line with the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. University administrators should ensure that basic facilities such as water and electricity are provided for the students to avoid cases of demonstration and crises.
- ii. University administrators should ensure that libraries and laboratories are provided to improve students' academic concentration and maintenance of discipline.
- iii. Hostel accommodations, classrooms and recreational facilities should be provided to discourage students from getting involved in indisciplinary behaviors such as sexual harassment, examination malpractice and cult societies.

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